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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/530,295	11/10/2005	Detlef Crohn	076326-0299	3013
22428	7590	01/24/2008	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			TO, TOAN C	
SUITE 500			ART UNIT	
3000 K STREET NW			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20007			3616	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/24/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/530,295

Applicant(s)

CROHN ET AL.

Examiner

Toan C. To

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 24, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 36-44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23, 25-2628-29, 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 27 and 35 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/13/07; 4/5/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election of Species 1, claims 23, 25-30, 32 and 35 in the reply filed on November 2, 2007 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 24, 31, 33-34, and 36-44 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on November 2, 2007.
3. Claim 30 is withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, because the elected species shows the web extending in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the gas generator but not extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the gas generator as recited in claim 30.

### ***Specification***

4. The disclosure is objected to because it does not has section headings. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 23 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tonooka et al (U.S. 5,848,803).

Tonooka discloses a passenger airbag module comprising: a gas generator () arranged in a module housing (21, 22); wherein the module housing (21, 22) includes a space (22) containing a folded airbag (15) and includes a gas outlet opening (62) on a side of the housing adjacent the airbag (15); wherein the housing (21, 22) includes a web (61) located on a side of the gas outlet opening (62), wherein the web (61) extends into the folded airbag (15); wherein, the web (61) extends directly along the edge of the gas outlet opening (62).

7. Claims 23, 25-26, 28-29, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ozaki et al (U.S. 6,676,147).

Ozaki et al discloses a passenger airbag module comprising: a gas generator (16) arranged in a module housing (10); wherein the module housing (10) includes a space (22) containing a folded airbag (14) and includes a gas outlet opening (42) on a side of the housing adjacent the airbag (14); wherein the housing (10) includes a web (40) located on a side of the gas outlet opening (42), wherein the web (40) extends into the folded airbag (14); wherein, wherein the length of the web (40) along the side of the gas outlet opening (42) is shorter than the space in the module housing for the folded airbag, and wherein the web (40) extends away from the opening (42) to a position adjacent an upper edge of the module housing; wherein the airbag (14) is folded so that there is only one airbag layer above the web (40); wherein the gas generator (16) is

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tubular and the gas outlet opening (42) runs in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the gas generator (16); wherein the web (40) extends in direction of the longitudinal axis of the tubular gas generator (16).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claims 27 and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TTo

January 17, 2008

**TOPTO**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**